

and critically injured him. Six days later, on October 2, 2009, he died from heart failure during surgery, a few weeks short of his plan to retire and spend time with his family and recently founded outreach ministry.

Mr. Rondono, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, lived in Metairie and worked at the USPS Uptown Station in New Orleans. He was known as a dedicated, charismatic, and beloved letter carrier. Survivors include his wife Shirley of Metairie; and sons Richard of Houston, Ryan of Los Angeles, and Roy, Jr. of Metairie.

Mr. Rondono's accident and subsequent death came as a complete shock to those whom he loyally and lovingly served for and with during the past 37 years. The merchants and community members whom Mr. Rondono served established a donation fund in his honor and organized a block party to raise funds for his family. Shortly thereafter, the community members and Louisiana district postal employees asked that we dedicate this post office in his honor.

According to the Times-Picayune, those whom Mr. Rondono served said they formed a "close bond" with Mr. Rondono and described him as a "happy man with a kind word for everyone and a dutiful postman who introduced himself to new residents, never delivered junk mail addressed to previous tenants, and would stand outside in pouring rain to deliver even the smallest package."

As one constituent, Susan Hereford, expressed to the Times-Picayune regarding Mr. Rondono's service to and passion for those whom he served: "To have that constancy with someone who doesn't just have his head down and drop mail in your box, he connected with everyone on his route. And they connected with him."

To those whom he served, Mr. Rondono was a great letter carrier, civil servant, New Orleansian, American, veteran, and friend. To those he leaves behind, he was a loyal and loving husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend. I am proud of his service to the postal service, the United States Military, and the citizens of New Orleans, and I am proud to dedicate this post office in his honor.

As another constituent, Mary Nass, said to the Times-Picayune: "The outpouring of grief on the part of hundreds of people following Roy's death should teach us that we do not need to know others intimately to positively impact their lives. Here was a kind, humble, and conscientious man who made each and every person whose path he crossed feel a little happier, a little more connected to the human race, after his daily passing. No one could have left us a finer legacy."

Mr. Rondono was beloved by the community, his colleagues, and his wonderful family. And I can think of no greater way to honor him than to dedicate the Uptown post office located at 2000 Louisiana Avenue in New Orleans, Lou-

isiana, in his name as a reminder for all who go there of the dedication and passion of this public servant.

I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3951.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge all our colleagues to join Mr. CAO, the principal author of this bill, to support House Resolution 3951, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3951.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANN MARIE BLUTE POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4017) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 43 Maple Avenue in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, as the "Ann Marie Blute Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4017

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ANN MARIE BLUTE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 43 Maple Avenue in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, shall be known and designated as the "Ann Marie Blute Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ann Marie Blute Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CAO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN), the chief sponsor of this measure.

Mr. McGOVERN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to rise in support of H.R. 4017 to rename the post office at 43 Maple Avenue in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, as the "Ann Marie Blute Post Office."

Mrs. Blute was a beloved and active member of the tight-knit Shrewsbury community, which is located in my district. She passed away on May 1 of this year after suffering a stroke, and she is dearly missed by her family and all who knew her.

Mrs. Blute was a true pillar of her community. Her life revolved around helping others, especially children. She once told her son Joseph that all she ever wanted to be was a mother. Along with her husband, Dr. Robert Blute, Sr., she did just that, raising 11 wonderful children, including former Congressman Peter Blute.

□ 1315

Over the years, she took great pride in watching her children, and later her 23 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, thrive and prosper. What truly distinguished Mrs. Blute, however, is that she was not only a mother to her own children, but she was also a mother figure to so many of the children she came in contact with through her volunteer work.

Mrs. Blute had a deep and unwavering passion for social justice and committed herself to helping the sick and the poor. The diversity of Mrs. Blute's community work is truly impressive. She volunteered with the Nazareth Home for Boys, which provides stable housing and a nurturing environment for young boys in difficult times. She also worked with the Mustard Seed, a volunteer soup kitchen that offers hot meals to the homeless. A devout Roman Catholic, she was especially active in St. Mary's Church in Shrewsbury where she served on the Women's Guild and as a catechism teacher and a Eucharistic minister.

One of Mrs. Blute's proudest moments came in 1994, when Cardinal John J. O'Connor called her to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City to receive the title of Dame of Malta. This is one of the highest honors bestowed by the Catholic church and is given to those individuals who demonstrate an intense devotion to service. I can think of no one more deserving of this prestigious honor than Mrs. Blute.

Mr. Speaker, all too often we fail to adequately recognize one of the toughest yet most important jobs of all, being a mother. Mrs. Blute exemplified all of the best qualities of a mother—kindness, compassion, dedication, and hard work. She was kind enough to share herself not only with her own children and family, but also with the entire Shrewsbury community. Hundreds of children in central Massachusetts are no doubt better off today because they had the privilege of knowing Mrs. Blute.

We are all eternally grateful for her service and her lasting kindness. The

world would be a better place with more people like Ann Marie Blute. Mr. Speaker, naming the Shrewsbury Post Office after Mrs. Blute is a permanent reminder of her beautiful life and commitment to service. I hope that it will also inspire others to take up the call of service that Mrs. Blute answered with such passion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4017, and I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, my colleague, Mr. LYNCH, for yielding me the time.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4017, which designates the United States Postal Facility located at 43 Maple Avenue in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, as the Ann Marie Blute Post Office.

Ann Marie Blute was born on May 30, 1925 in Boston, Massachusetts. As the oldest of eight, she helped raise her siblings, which would only help prepare her for raising 11 children of her own one day. In 1947, she married Dr. Robert Blute, Sr., an Army doctor, and sailed to Germany where they lived for 2 years. After returning to the States, her husband began practicing medicine in Worcester, Massachusetts, while she raised her family and volunteered tirelessly within the Catholic church.

A parishioner at St. Mary's Church in Shrewsbury since 1954, Mrs. Blute served on many committees as a mother at the school. She taught catechism, worked with the Women's Guild, and was a Eucharistic minister. In 1994, she received the ultimate honor for all of her service to the Shrewsbury community through the Catholic church with the title of Dame of Malta, one of the oldest Catholic religious orders dedicated to charitable service.

Her generosity extended outside of her family and her neighbors. After her children had left for college, Mrs. Blute offered her home and her hospitality to young Vietnamese immigrant, Lucy Hoang, who was searching for a better life. Ms. Hoang, now 44 years old and a chemical engineer, said of her host, "When I first came here, she was standing at the door waiting for me with arms wide open. I felt shaky, but as I came to her, she hugged me." Ann Marie Blute's kindness knew no bounds.

Mrs. Blute sadly passed away at the age of 84. She is survived by her husband, children, and large extended family. Please join me in supporting this bill in honor of Ann Marie Blute who fervently served her community in Shrewsbury.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, as a procedural matter, H.R. 4017 was introduced by my friend and colleague, Representative JIM MCGOVERN, who we heard from earlier, on November 4, 2009, and was favorably reported out of the House Oversight Committee by unanimous consent on November 18, 2009. In

addition, I am proud to say that I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 4017, which enjoys the support of the entire Massachusetts House delegation.

A beloved resident of the town of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, Mrs. Ann Marie Blute passed away on May, 1, 2009 at the age of 83. While Mrs. Blute is no longer with us, she will forever be remembered for her dedication to her loving family as well as her genuine and longstanding commitment to public service.

Born in the city of Boston on May 30, 1925, and as the oldest daughter of eight children, Mrs. Blute quickly learned how to help in raising a large and very busy family. In addition, Mrs. Blute was also able to witness the value of public service at a very early age as her father, Colonel Paul Hines, a distinguished veteran of World War I, went on to serve in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. As noted by the Boston Globe upon Mrs. Blute's passing, a commitment to public service "ran in the genes" of the Blute family, as Mrs. Blute's brother, Peter, served as chairman of the Boston city council and her son, Peter, as has been mentioned earlier by Mr. MCGOVERN, was elected to the United States Congress.

After receiving her education in the Boston public school system, Mrs. Blute accepted a position in the business office at the Boston Post newspaper where her mother, Margaret Galvin Hines, worked as a reporter. In 1947, however, Mrs. Blute left Boston for the town of Bremerhaven, Germany, after marrying Dr. Robert Blute, a doctor with the United States Army and Mrs. Blute's beloved husband for the next 62 years. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Blute would go on to have 11 children—five sons and six daughters.

Upon their return from Germany, the Blute family settled in the town of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, where Mrs. Blute embarked on her life's work and journey as a mom, not only to her own 11 children but also to the many neighborhood children that entered her life. In addition, Mrs. Blute's arrival in Shrewsbury also marked the continuation of her lifelong dedication to serving others. A devout Roman Catholic and devoted parishioner of St. Mary's, as has been mentioned, Mrs. Blute actively participated in a variety of church community programs and activities. Specifically, Mrs. Blute served on the Women's Guild, taught catechism, as Mr. CAO has mentioned, and became a Eucharistic minister. In addition, she was a founding member of the Associates of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, based in Ipswich, Massachusetts. And in 1994, Mrs. Blute, as Mr. MCGOVERN has mentioned, was called to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York by Cardinal John O'Connor to receive the title of Dame of Malta, granted to those who demonstrate an intense devotion to service and one of the Catholic church's highest honors.

Moreover, Mrs. Blute also served as a dedicated board member of various

community organizations, some of which have been mentioned, including the Nazareth Home for Boys in Leicester, Massachusetts, and the Mustard Seed homeless shelter in the city of Worcester.

In addition, Mrs. Blute's community work included her service as a trustee of the Shrewsbury Library, as well as her membership in the Shrewsbury Garden Club, the Ladies Auxiliary of St. Vincent's Hospital, and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Notably, Mrs. Blute also spent several years volunteering for the non-profit organization, Aid to Incarcerated Mothers.

As so eloquently stated by her beloved husband, Robert, Mrs. Blute's lifelong ambition was "to perform each of the works of mercy—to feed the hungry, to help the poor, to visit the prisoner, and give aid to the sick and the stranger." Mrs. Blute's driving purpose was evidenced time and time again through her many good deeds. Among them was the kindness and generosity that she displayed toward Lucy Hoang, a Vietnamese immigrant who Mrs. Blute lovingly took into her home for 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, the life of Mrs. Ann Marie Blute stands as a testament to public service. Her memory will undoubtedly live on through her husband, Robert; their 11 children, 23 great grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, her four siblings, and the countless friends and neighbors for whom Mrs. Blute's dedication to community service made the ultimate difference. It is my hope that we can pay further tribute to Mrs. Blute's remarkable legacy through the passage of this legislation to rename the Shrewsbury post office in her honor. I urge my colleagues to join Mr. MCGOVERN, the chief sponsor of this bill, in doing so and supporting H.R. 4017.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4017, and I would like to congratulate Mr. MCGOVERN.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Again, Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to support Mr. MCGOVERN in the sponsorship of this measure, H.R. 4017.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4017.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SPECIAL AGENT SAMUEL HICKS FAMILIES OF FALLEN HEROES ACT

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2711) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the transportation of the dependents, remains, and effects of certain Federal employees who die while performing official duties or as a result of the performance of official duties, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2711

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Special Agent Samuel Hicks Families of Fallen Heroes Act".

SEC. 2. TRANSPORTATION OF DEPENDENTS, REMAINS, AND EFFECTS OF CERTAIN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5724c the following:

"§ 5724d. Transportation of dependents, remains, and effects of certain Federal employees

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Under regulations prescribed under section 5738 and when the head of the agency concerned (or a designee thereof) authorizes or approves, if a covered employee dies while performing official duties or as a result of the performance of, official duties, the agency may pay from Government funds—

"(1) the qualified expenses of the immediate family of the employee, if the place where the family will reside following the death of the employee is—

"(A) different from the place where the family resided at the time of the employee's death; and

"(B) within the United States; and

"(2) the expenses of preparing and transporting the remains of the deceased to—

"(A) the place where the immediate family will reside following the death of the employee; or

"(B) such other place, appropriate for interment, as is determined by the agency head (or designee).

"(b) QUALIFIED EXPENSES.—For purposes of this section, the term 'qualified expenses', as used with respect to a family changing its place of residence, means the moving expenses, transportation expenses, and relocation expenses of the family which are attributable to the change in place of residence.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) the term 'covered employee' means—

"(A) a law enforcement officer, as defined by section 8331 or 8401; and

"(B) any employee in or under the Federal Bureau of Investigation who is not described in subparagraph (A);

"(2) the term 'moving expenses', as used with respect to a family, includes the expenses of transporting, packing, crating, temporarily storing, draying, and unpacking the household goods and personal effects of such family, not in excess of 18,000 pounds net weight; and

"(3) the term 'relocation expenses' has the meaning given such term under regulations prescribed under section 5738, including relocation expenses and relocation services described in sections 5724a and 5724c, respectively."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5724c the following:

"5724d. Transportation of dependents, remains, and effects of certain Federal employees."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CAO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the chairman of the full Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Chairman TOWNS, and its members, I am proud to present H.R. 2711, the Special Agent Samuel Hicks Families of Fallen Heroes Act, for consideration.

This bipartisan legislation was introduced on June 4, 2009, by Representative MIKE ROGERS of Michigan and several members of the Oversight Committee, including Chairman ED TOWNS and Representatives BILL FOSTER, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, and BRIAN BILBRAY. In addition, this legislation was favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee on September 10, 2009, by voice vote. H.R. 2711 is a worthy and important issue and I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this bill.

As reported by the Oversight Committee, the legislation would authorize the FBI to pay the relocation and moving expenses for families of FBI agents who are killed in the line of duty. Under current law, the FBI is only authorized to pay these expenses if an FBI agent or an employee is killed overseas, but cannot pay for relocation if the death occurs in the U.S.

FBI employees and their families are moved routinely by the Bureau within the United States to take on assignments that further the mission of the agency and the security of the country. While we wish this legislation was not necessary, tragically there have been instances in the recent past where such authority was needed to support the families of agents or employees who gave their lives.

Of course, untimely deaths in the Federal law enforcement community are not limited to the FBI, and the Bureau is not the only Federal agency that relocates its employees to better protect the country. Recognizing this,

the bill we are considering on the floor today includes a straightforward but important amendment that recognizes the service and sacrifice of all Federal law enforcement officers. The amendment simply extends the authority in this legislation to the other agencies that employ Federal law enforcement officers.

This amendment has strong support from the Federal law enforcement community. I should also note that the costs associated with this bill remain small as the number of Federal law enforcement officers killed annually is approximately 12 to 15 officers. We can and should assist each and every one of these families by supporting this amendment and this bill. Moreover, the amendment also pays tribute to the memory and service of Special Agent Samuel Hicks by renaming the legislation in his honor. Special Agent Hicks was assigned to the Pittsburgh FBI office and was shot fatally on November 19, 2008 at the age of 33 while executing a Federal search warrant associated with a drug distribution ring. He is survived by his wife and their 2-year-old son.

Special Agent Hicks was a former police officer with the Baltimore police department. He and his family relocated to Pittsburgh when he became an FBI agent. Unfortunately, after the loss of Special Agent Hicks, the Bureau was unable to assist the Hicks family in moving back to Baltimore because of statutory limitations.

□ 1330

This legislation would correct this problem and prevent future families from suffering additional unnecessary grief and hardship. I encourage all the Members to support Mr. ROGERS and his legislation.

I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my friend and colleague from the State of Michigan (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Mr. LYNCH and Mr. TOWNS, thank you very, very much for your work in a bipartisan way on this very important piece of legislation.

Sometimes, with all of the big issues that we deal with, we do pause and pay attention to issues that impact lives like some circumstances like no other. And if you imagine the Federal law enforcement community—and I used to serve proudly as an FBI agent and was proud to count myself as one of them—that every single day somebody suits up quietly, with a search warrant or an arrest warrant to serve it somewhere in America. And we forget because they are exceptionally good at doing what they do without getting hurt or harmed, but it is incredibly dangerous work. They get drug dealers and they get child pornographers and they get bank executives committing bank fraud. They get Mafia dons, and they get terrorists of the hardest sort, and they bring them to justice as a part of